

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

An embodiment herein provides a system and method where layer 2 devices, such as switches on a subnet, operate to copy and forward information from ARP replies on a subnet, to a central ARP collector. It should be noted that in referring to a layer 2 device, this does not exclude a device which also includes some layer 3 capabilities. As is known in the art a number of network devices provide for both layer 2 and layer 3 functionality. For example, a layer 2 device can operate to direct the transmission of data packets based on the Ethernet or MAC address information in a data packet, and provide some layer 3 capability such as routing data packets based on an IP address information. In general layer 2 and layer 3 functions are widely known under the International Standards Organization's Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model. Additional aspects of layer 2 and layer 3 operations are discussed in pending patent application titled MULTIPLE TIERED NETWORK ~~SECURITY~~ SECURITY SYSTEM, METHOD AND APPARATUS, ~~filed June 10, 2003, US patent application no. _____ (pending) _____~~ filed June 11, 2003, U.S. Patent Application No. 10/458,628 (inventors Philip Kwan and Chi-Jui Ho) and which is assigned to the same assignee as the present patent application, and which is incorporated herein by reference.